

DRAFT: GLC: cmw (typed on mag cards 11 June 1975, #6025, 6274, 6030)

29 May 1975

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Telephone Conversations with Jack Boos and Searle Field,
House Select Committee on Intelligence.

1. Talked to Jack Boos, House Select Committee on Intelligence regarding the clearances on himself and Searle Field, also of the Committee staff. I remarked that Boos had the proper clearances and that he had said the Chairman was going to certify Field's clearances even though the FBI investigation was not yet complete. I told Boos that if the Chairman was now reluctant to certify these clearances for Field that this would indeed create problems in his visiting the Agency today at four o'clock. Boos said he would check further on this and for me to "sit tight" and he would call me back.

2. Boos called back a little later and said since this involves Searle Field personally and his clearances that he thought I should talk to Field myself and discuss the clearance problem. Field then came on the line and asked how all the developments had taken place.

3. I said I had been up on Friday and had spoken to Chairman Nedzi because Mr. Colby felt that Jack (Boos) and the Chairman ought to be generally informed as to what was going on on the other (Senate) side.

Therefore, I saw the Chairman and Boos and gave them a fill-in. Field then asked if the Chairman had originally been briefed as Chairman of the committee, I said as the Armed Services Subcommittee Chairman and thought it was May 1973 but I was not sure of the exact date.

4. I told Field that the next development was that Boos called and said he thought it would be well for Field to get the same kind of briefing that he and the Chairman had received. I mentioned that LLM was working on some material for the Chairman and that Boos suggested that perhaps the best thing was to have a session with the three of them. The Director felt this was something he should do with the Chairman and we noted at the time Field's lack of clearances and the DCI said at that time that he was willing to brief the Chairman to the extent indicated and if the chairman wanted Field to get in on that session, he wouldn't object. As he recalled, when we got together and the Chairman said we may have a clearance problem and the DCI said he would go ahead on the Chairman's guarantee, I said the Director didn't want to make a fuss at that time. When we got to talking about additional material and sensitivity (and this book involves more details and sensitivity), we still had the clearance question with Field.

5. I said I had raised this with Mr. Knoche and the DCI and the DCI felt that somewhere we have to settle the question on procedures and we haven't done it. I added that frankly, one of these areas gets into a member problem that he was familiar with -- there was nothing personal

involved. The DCI thought that we should go about this in an orderly fashion since this may be some of the most sensitive we will get into. I said Boos and I then talked further and he said the Chairman had decided to go ahead and certify Field's clearance. I had indicated that we were not going to look behind that certification -- that it was the Chairman's responsibility. If the Chairman makes the certification, Field should come on out and bring the letter with him. I said I had a letter on the Director's desk now to the Chairman of the Joint Committee and that is the way we left it yesterday. When Boos called and said the Chairman was reluctant to make the certification in the absence of the FBI report, I said this was what I would have expected. We are not trying to be bureaucratic, but we feel that this is a pretty important matter.

6. Field asked if I could understand the position this put him in and I said yes. Field said the number one thing on his list of things to do is to get extensively into the whole security clearance issue. From Field's point of view it is not animosity but a constitutional point of view and since they weren't part of the Executive branch, they shouldn't have clearances from that branch. I said that I agreed except with regard to compartmented information, I said that this wasn't a security clearance, that the Agency operates on a need to know basis and there are certain types of information to which everybody doesn't have a need for access. In the case of the Senate Committee, the final determination on the access to compartmented information will be made by the Agency -- since this is not a security clearance.

7. Field said his theory is that his basis of access is, of course, H. Res. 138 -- the investigative means of the congress -- he said this was his clearance -- his basis -- and his need to know. That decision as a matter of principle must rely with the Congress and it should go back to the Congress and as a matter of principle, I said I wanted to make it clear that I didn't quarrel with his arguments if the Chairman buys them and makes the certification -- that we (the Agency) are not looking behind the Chairman's right for clearance by the resolution and rules which are the Committees' action. Field said he had wanted to talk to me first to see what we were talking about. He said the only problem with relation to the Chairman is that we are lending some kind of clearance procedure to him that way. Field then said he is Chief Counsel and Staff Director and he was operating officially for the Committee and that he was working within the structure to discuss the materials to be dealt with. He said he was reluctant to go to the Committee when the first question they will ask him is why haven't you reviewed the material and he would say he tried to but the Agency said no. Field then said that his authority is part of the Committee's charter -- the Resolution and rules and that our security classification procedures and security clearance (including the Chief Counsel of the Committee) in some degree is an open question. It is not part of history. It doesn't require a specific FBI check.

It doesn't say specifically what kind of check is to be made. Field said he was a little bit disturbed because some of the people they are hiring do not want to be checked as a matter of principal. Again Field said it may or may

not be something we can work out. Field said he didn't think the Committee can give a Top Secret clearance. He will probably get in touch with the Chairman and said he didn't think we should send the car over to get them this afternoon. I said we were interested in whatever the Chairman and Field decide on the clearance question and will ask our people to take a look at it.

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